

Message Series:

God, You Want Me to Do What?
A Study on the Minor Prophets
Jonah, Hosea, Micah, and Haggai
Stepping Up and Going Out for God
September 20, 2009

Today's Message:

God Will Not Let Go
Jonah 1:4-Chapter 2

Jonah 1:4, 13, 17 & 2:10

⁴But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up...¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them...¹⁷And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.¹⁰And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

Today's Main Thought: God's response to Jonah intentionally running away from the command to go to Nineveh.

Consequences of Jonah's disobedience...

God sends a violent storm to disrupt Jonah's plans, v. 4, Proverbs 16:3, 9, 33

Jonah's defiance caused hardship on his traveling companions, vv. 5-6

- The sailors were terrified, because their lives were put in harms way.
- The ship's integrity was compromised.
- Cargo was thrown overboard causing the crew to suffer economic losses.

One can run from God, but God will not let go

God's sovereignty will allow you to be exposed, vv. 7-10; Psalm 139:7-12; Matthew 27:69-74

God still extended mercy and salvation in the midst of Jonah's disobedience

- Mercy and salvation on the sailors, vv. 5, 14-16
- Mercy and salvation on Jonah, vv. 15, 17

Jonah's Prayer of Hope

Do I know God's word well enough to draw on it as a source of comfort when I am in trouble?

Compare Jonah 2:2 with Psalm 18:6

Getting Started: Please read Jonah chapters one and two. Now in chapter two circle the verbs. What observations do you make?

Digging Deeper: 1) What do you see in the prayer in chapter 2; a psalm of Thanksgiving, a call for help, or recommitment? What do you make of the fact Jonah prays "inside the fish" (v. 1), and used verbs in the past tense as though God had already answered prayer? 2) Compare verse 3 with 1:15. How does Jonah view his circumstances? God's control? God's purposes?

Living It Out: When have you felt like Jonah – far from God, enmeshed in a situation beyond your control? How then was your life brought "up from the pit"? Where in your life are you desperate enough to pray with hope, as Jonah does?

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Next Week: #3 in series
Jonah Chapter 3